## "STIEFMUETTERCHEN."

[A capital Fairy Story, written for THE EVENING STAR by "Miss Brown."

Years and years ago, before the locomotive had driven the fairies from hill and glen and steamboats had been the death of sprites and of him, and that many a sun-browned maiden wished she were mistress of the little house

thenceforward made the little house a paradise. Many were, of course, the regrets that a stranger should have been brought to take possession of the coveted treasure; but the sweet temper of the new neighbor soon overcame those feelings, and when her blue eyes looked at them from her baby daughter's face, even the last remnant of the old jealously was drowned in the little one's cry. Soon a little boy came to paler till, when a dark-eyed baby pair had looked their first upon the world in her arms, she succumbed to her old enemy, the north wind, and was laid to rest on the bleak hillside, toward the land of her childhood.

mained, falling with leaden weight upon shoulders which, however strong, were oh! so unused to such burdens. True, some kindly neighbor would come now and then and try to things grew from bad to worse till, at home or | would certainly do so." on the sea, there was nowhere so sad and despairing a man as Erich. Full of gloomy thoughts he was out in his boat one day, listlessly letting it float whither it would, when he seemed to hear a voice singing :

"Oh! cease now thy mournings, thou sorrowful The ocean brings comfort; rely on its plan, And ere yet another full moon shall have waned,

Your life all its former content will have gained." than he; and since they had believed it why grammatical or ungrammatical. should not he? Therefore, the comforting voice could only come from there and he must heed it. And he did, and felt less unhappy than usual when, upon his return home, he found everything in confusion and the twins in open

Early that day there had been an unwonted commotion among the old sea king's daughters. Zephyrine, the most lovely and compassionate of all, had declared to her sisters that she would take charge of the forsaken little mortals in the house near the sea. In vain they had begged her not to leave them, reminding her of the fact that she must forfeit her immortality, and be subject to suffering and death, like any earthborn being, if she renounced her present state; to all she had but the one reply, that she could not bear to see their favorite, Erich, in his sorrow and the children in their neglected condition; they needed her and she would go to them, no matter what the penalty she had to pay. And the next morning when Erich landed at his favorite haunt, in search of some peculiar shells, which had been ordered by a grand lady from some far away town, he found, sitting upon the sand, a beautiful woman in sea-green garments, which floated around her splendid form like mists around the mountain-top. In reply to his questions she told him that she had been shipwrecked, and seemed to be the only one surviving; and that account of berself she also gave to the minister who, when Brich had brought her to the village and offered her the shelter of his roof, came to comfort and aid her as best he could. No storm had raged the day before, no signal of distress had been heard, however, and the villagers shook their heads and wondered how a vessel could have been

wrecked so near their shore, without their knowing anything whatever about it. The stately woman seemed perfectly content, though. Her quiet, beautifying touch was upon all and everything, and soon there was no house so well-ordered, no children so clean, obedient and happy as those belonging to Erich. But when days had grown into weeks, without bringing anyone to claim the lady, then the minister suggested that she should go with him to the great capital, and from thence institute aquiry concerning her people; and then the children discovered that they could not be happy without her, and Erich saw that she was indeed the comfort the ocean had promised him, and that he could not let her go. And thus it happened that there was a quiet wedding, and the bride wa a ain a strange woman; aye, far more strange to at the broken lily had been, which they had bedded with tears on the hillside but two short years before. Why, no one knew even where this one had come from; and, surely, there could never be any luck in a house where the bride acted in so mysterious a manner as this one had done. When the children had come running home, screaming with delight at having found, on the shore, a string of pearls, so large and pure as had never been seen there before, didn't she just smile in a shadowy way and put them on, with a murmured something about their being a present from her sisters? Ah! it was all very strange, very. And when day after day these very children were so lucky in finding the rarest, most beautiful shells and amber in it is in the ingenuity of dressing these skeletons such quantities as others could not hope to that the poet of ability is distinguished from the gather in a lifetime, then it became apparent to one of no ability. All their poetry is founded even the most incredulous that some other power than mere chance befriended them. And the inmates of the little stone house also held this belief, and were happy in the enjoyment of there before, while Erich often wondered what

Thus time passed on and the fisherman's wife hoped that the wrath of her kin had taken the form of forgetfulness. Often while walking tem of mythology is a reflection of their own flowers all shades of morning glories—surplus with the children along the shore in the evening she saw the mist-like forms of her sisters moving in the rhythmic measures of their dance, and thought, with a sigh, of the time when she, too, had en of their number; but a glance at the merry, happy faces of the little ones banished all regret and she returned to her home more fully convinced than ever that she had done what was kin lest and best. One evening, though, while Erich was absent, she heard the voices of her sisters sobbing mournfully around the house, and knew that the last hour or her stay had come. Calmly and lovingly she gathered the children around her and waited. The two eider ones clung closely to either side, and the babies, the twins, were as usual on their footstool at her knees; thus they sat, The ear of corn is emblematic of life. "The Zuni listening to the angry voice of Orcanus her eldest brother, who waipped the water into mountains and drove them to the shore, sending them farther, farther each time, till they knocked against the door and demanded their prey. Softly comforting the children, with her tender arms around them and they clinging to her, the foamed-flecked waves found them, and bore them off; and when, next morning Erich returned to the spot where his home had been there was nothing left but a pile of stones, and the trail of his watery enemy. For days he sat there, heeding neither human sympathy, nor the voice of the elements until, one evening, when the misty shapes appeared in a perfect whirl of mad motion, he saw the beckoning arms of his loved ones and followed them down, down, into the old ocean king's very halls. The scene of his sorrow was held in sacred remembrance by his old friends and neighbors and served as a shrine, where many a sigh and tear were dropped to his memory. But when the next spring came into the land they found the place covered with strange, beautiful flowers. Five velvety petals, forming the group they had so often seen when passing the open door at twilight, sat on the green stools in loving comtant twilight, as an on the green stools in loving combined which misleads and to acquire that which leads in spite of every circumstance, as it has led me. If I had dreamed a few years ago of the immense time, and consequently neglect to give the land to the work when the health of the server traps of the city. It is to the cleaning of the sewer traps of the city. It is to

THE ZUNI NATION.

SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR LANGUAGE, LITERA-TURE AND RELIGION-THE WORK OF MR. FRANK H. CUSHING-THE RECENT CEREMONY AT THE "OCEAN OF THE SUNRISE."

Mr. Frank H. Cushing, the young ethnologist, nixies, there lived in a fishing village, near the | who has just returned, with his Zuni Indians, Baltic, a young man who was the pride and from the "Ocean of Sunrise," was received in boast of all that coast. No eye was so bright, Boston with such distinction that he might think no hair so curly as Erich's; where a kind heart his months of self-exile and patient research and willing hands and feet were wanted there | well rewarded if he is seeking only distinction. was he, gentle and tender as a girl; but let a He and his Zuni bretheren received marked atcomrade be in danger, or a ship lie at the mercy | tention, not only from the state and municipal of the wrathful waves, then, where was there authorities, but from the countless scientific and culture which, for three centuries, has preserved its individuality and withstood the tides of civlooked at him with a blush and a sigh and lilization that have surged around them from the days of the ancient Spanish domination in the near the ocean. But Erich neither blushed nor | southwest to the present, when they are fast

The richest field in America, for archæologic research, to use the words of Mr. Cushing, to a STAR reporter, is in the sandy valley of the Zuni. The Zuni Indians are the descendants of the nation of cliff dwellers, the only living represen-

tatives of the ancient Pueblo culture. "When these facts were opened up to my unshare his sister's lullaby and increase the derstanding," said Mr. Cushing, "I made up mother's cares; and then, while they daily grew | my mind that there was not only a year's work, | ever relationship the Indian chose to hold me in strength and beauty, she grew slighter and or two or three years work for some ethnologist, but the work of nearly a life time. Having gone into the field of ethnology at an early age, with the hope of monographing the entire human race, I came down to the hope of being from which her wistful eyes had so often gazed able to properly monograph this little handful of people, numbering only sixteen hundred in And now came dark days for Erich. The soul all their branches, because in monographing of his house was gone and only its cares re- this little nation, you are monographing the of the most advantage to me in my attempt to pounded. primitive culture of southwestern America. 1 found by my investigations, sufficient material, new, important, and intensely interesting, to keep an ethnologist's most undivided attention bring order out of chaos; but alas! their ways for life. I cannot devote my whole life to it were not the ways of her who was gone and but were I a man of independent means,

THE ZUNI GRAMMAR. The vocabulary of the Zunis is rich, and, though their language is unwritten, they have a grammar as regular and symmetrical as that of any tongue. The moods and tenses of verbs are represented by terminal syllables, and having more than the usual number of moods, their language is very expressive. It is well fitted He was roused from his reverie and gazed also for philosophic discussion, being capable of around, but could not discern any possible source expressing abstract ideas. As an instance of the of the song; yet he heard it again and again copiousness and perspecuity of their language, to this water. A more elaborate explanation and finally remembered that close to this spot, Mr. Cushing stated to THE STAR reporter that for deep down among the reefs, the sea-king's the English verb to know, the Zuni dialect fur- material concerning their whole mythology." palace was said to be. Of course, the gray- nishes six different verbs, each representing a haired minister, back there, in the hamlet, had distinct manner or condition of knowing, as to tried to reason him out of that belief; but, then, know abstractly, to know through the senses, what could a minister know about such things? to know how, &c. They have a culture among Surely, Erich's own father and grandfather themselves. The education of a priest is a matter and all the brave fellows who had sooner or of some thirty or forty years, and they speak of later gone down to old Oceanus' dominion, had a member of their nation as being educated or letter to a friend in this city-both Washingtona better right to know the truth of the matter uneducated or of the talk of a Zuni as ians-who went to Philadelphia to see Patti in

THE ZUNI BIBLE. Their traditions are collected together in a long epic, which is confided to the keeping of a line of priests, who hand it down from generation to generation, just as the Iliad of Homer is supposed to have been handed down and preserved in its primitive purity until it was committed to manuscript. These priests commit the epic or the Zuni Bible to memory, and it is recited or chanted on certain solemn occasions. "It nearly killed me when I first heard it," said Mr. Cushing, "for I had to sit up all night." It is a metrical production, the lines scanning perfectly according to a peculiar measure. The language is capable of the ornament of quantitive measure. The following lines from one of their songs show their appreciation of rhythm:

Ma'-a-we Shó-tsi-iäl-lon tsi-'i-kwá Tsi-kwan tap-te thli-lätht-ta Thlu-tchun-tap-te thle-po-ne Ma'-a-we

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LANGUAGE forms an interesting study. In Boston it was characterized as Homeric. The following literal translation of a part of a recent address by one of the chiefs is typical of the construction of the

from the Zuni country, unto the rising sun ocean of, in one step, as it were, come have." This is rendered literally:

"As though upon the back of a great winged monster, without once touching our feet to the earth, we have, as in one step, come from the country of the Zunis, far though it be, unto the ocean of the rising sun.'

Their songs abound in poetic gems and rare images. As an example of this, Mr. Cushing recited the following, which is a liberal translation of the words of one of their songs, but preserves the poetic spirit:

Oh, how beautiful! See the waving corn plants round us. Through the sandy plain, the river. Tortuous like the serpents pathway; Over all the rainbow stretching. With her shoulder many colored. Like the rays of clouded sunlight.

Oh, our fathers growing corn plants, Like the rainbow's striped shoulders. May your leaves show marks of growing E-lu-lu-ya, see the lightning, as it flashes through the sky. E-lu-lu-ya, hear the thunder as it rumbles

through the sky. ANCIENT MODELS OF SONG. "All the models of these songs," said Mr Cushing, "have been handed down from immense antiquity. They are skeletons, on which songs are formed to suit special occasions, and

upon conventional forms." THE RELIGION OF THE ZUNIS is semi-Buddhistic, and resembles in many remany comforts which had never been known spects the creed of modern spiritualists. When in the study of the Zunis is that of their remarkclasses of gods-the celestial, the hero, the animal or biologic, and the elemental. Their sysprimitive system of government—that is, the offices of these various gods hold the same relation to one another as the offices of the Zuni | neck of her dress. priests and chiefs hold to each other. If you study, therefore, exhaustively their sociologic

> mythologic system. They look upon it as a favor to kill certain animals in the chase. It is considered that a spirit | powerful in action and rendering, but I, for the is set free from an inferior form of existence. and made eligible for life in human shape. The event is celebrated with sacrifices of plume sticks. When a deer, an antelope, a rabbit or any other animal that serves as food, is brought home, ears of corn are placed over its heart, just as they are placed over a new-born infant. mind," added Mr. Cushing, "is philosophic in the extreme, and, though they are intensely conservative, they thoroughly comprehend what they see."

BRAVE BUT HUMANE. In reply to a question of the reporter whether the Zunis were not warlike in disposition, Mr. Cushing said:

"They are brave in the defence of theirhomes, but do not seek war. The secret Order of the Bow is founded on the spirit of war, yet their institutions are humane in the extreme. Prayer is said at the taking of a scalp, showing a ten-dency to give every human being one more

"Are you not tired of your life among them?"

asked the reporter.
"To-night," said Mr. Cushing, "the intense in-

"as I said in my lecture here, has been largely affected by his environments. He lives in a desert where existence depends upon the amount of rainfall, and all of his worship is directed towards securing rain and water. Now the Zunis believe that the ocean is the origin or the embracing waters of the world, as they call them—are the birth place of the clouds. In their ceremonials, at the summer solstice for securing the summer rain clouds, they use water from these oceans, and have from generations to generations used water from these oceans to moisten the sacred paint on their plumed prayer sticks with which they invoke these clouds. They have been unable for generations to secure any water from the eastern ocean, or the ocean of sunrise, and according to the traditions handed down in a line of priests city. it has been a great desideratum to secure a courage and endurance like his? What wonder that all, from the old crone mending nets in the chimney corner, to the wee toddler building culture of Boston communed with that strange their treasured ocean water failed they think the culture which for three centuries has preserved. most fatal consequences would follow, and they have wished to secure water from the eastern ocean for the sake of making this ceremony complete. They think that they will be able to cause clouds to follow this water to their own sighed, and when he returned one day from an unusually long voyage there came with him a less Yankee settler.

being kemmed in by the enterprise of the rest-local vocan water mixed with other less precious liquid to moisten the sacred paint with which the stick portion of the plumed prayer sticks is

BECOMING A KA-KA. " So far as the rites that were performed over me are concerned," continued Mr. Cushing, "they consisted of a baptism of the head and a to-day, however, is so great an improve-washing of the hands in the sea. Then I was ment over that of the ancient date, that only embraced in regular order of rank and presented close comparison would succeed in establish-to the gods of the ocean and the gods of the ing their similitude. It is, however, to the waters as son or brother, or according to what- | credit of in. A prayer was said over me in token that I became a child of the sun, even as the Zunis. This was the first step of the initiatory ceremonies of the Ka-Ka. It will have to be repeated, and I will have to go through the regu-

attain is the one I have already taken in the order of the bow, but admission into the Ka-Ka is obtain these prayers, songs, and rituals."
"What is the form of the ceremony of invoking the clouds?"

"The particular sacred vessel that contains the water is placed, with fresh grass or sea weeds, before the altar in the presence of the priests of the different orders. Ceremonies are then performed with the direct object of invoking the rain clouds. They hold this water of the ocean as a hostage. They take infinite pains with it. In bringing it from Boston the chiefs carried it in their hand. The extra amount which they forwarded in demijohns they took no special pains with, for it is neither in a consecrated vessel, nor consecrated itself. The gourds in which the sacred water is contained they brought with are so old that they scarcely hold together. This | musical world. would involve an immense amount of additional

PATTI'S FAREWELL.

How a Young Lady Saw It.

The following extract is from a young lady's

opera: "You are now waiting to hear my opinion of the great Patti. What can I say? As the night came on I grew impatient to go to the opera house, and should have gone an hour too early, to be certain of getting there, had my escort been in the same frame of mind. However, ten minutes of eight found us in our seats. The opera house was thronged. The boxes were a boquet of beauty; beautiful girls; beautiful toilets; flowers in great bunches lying all along the cushioned front of the boxes; many of the ladies in the audience in full dress, many in light bonnets, many bare heads: the flutter of fans, the odor of flowers, the merry ripple of anticipated pleasure; five rows of gentlemen in full dress standing all the way round the house; well-dressed ladies and gentlemen sitting upon the steps in the circle. At eight exactly the leader took his seat and the overture began. In a moment more the very air seemed quieted. All the chatter ceased. Those who were visiting about among their friends hurried to their places. The audience seemed to feel that even the overture should be listened to with quiet admiration; though usualy hardly heard. At last the great curtain rolled up, disclosing the well-dressed chorus, whose few lines were not listened to, all eyes turning toward the right entrance, the entire throng bending forward, eager to catch the first glimpse of her slipper toe as she came. A moment more, one chord from the orchestra, and smiling, bowing, and radiantly beautiful in face. form, and costume, came before us the greatest living artiste. Some cheering greeted her; but in a second all was still, and her rosy lips, disclosing a double row of pearls, parted; then "As a winged monster upon the back of, came her voice-so pure, so full, so beautiful-the without once our feet the earth touching to, we | perfection of melody. During her first solo the silence in the audience was something marvelous. No one seemed willing to look even towards a friend, much less speak. As the last notes were uttered, came a storm of applause, as it from one man. She repeated nothing. I am unable to say just what the feeling was with me when she finished, except that of perfect satisfaction. was surprised that the voice was not larger. but it is so rich and so full that it reaches to every spot without the slightest effort, with bird-like ease and purity; not one tone was made that could be criticised. I failed to see the passion in her voice. There was no moment when I was thrilled, but I sat there speechless with content. The exquisite even quality; the flute-like scales; her trills like a bird; but the highest note she took was only c. and she was very stingy with her high notes all through. Her lower notes are as rich and full as a beautiful violoncello. After the duet with Nicolini, which closed the first act, the audience were wild, shouted and called, so the curtain was raised three times. She came forward happy as a child, with a good deal of gush, and the last time a lyre of rosebuds was given her. She came forward, clapping her hands like a three-year-old, which is all very well to some people, but too many are aware that it is studied. She was dressed, in amber plush, embroidered in birds; the most gorgeous dress I ever saw. In the point of the drapery below the left knee was a South American parrot, in its true color-light and dark green back and head, scarlet breast, and about his real size; perfectly beautiful. The dress was very low in front, high in the back, and just on each shoulder blade, or rather just below, were paraquets; no sleeves in the dress, and such arms, oh goodquestioned regarding their religious belief Mr. or eight birds, real birds, of beautiful bright the "Duquesne Grey" made the reporter would have become of him and his little ones Cushing said, "The most complicated question colors; around the square neck were sewed amber, imagine a brass band had suddenly burst able pantheistic religion. They have four great | hair, with a star of sapphires in the forehead. When the second act came on her toilette was ciel blue satin with painted panels of ecru-the neck, elbow sleeves; pearls in profusion in her | cian, stopping a moment to "tune-up." hair, a pearl necklace, and pearls sewed on the The singing was simply exquisite. In the duet with the bass, where she promises to give system, you will have the groundwork of their | up her lover, she was great; but still I missed

the fire and passion; there was not even as much pathos as I expected. When I say great, I mean only time, wanted something more, and that was pathos. As a whole, the performance was simply wonderful. In the next act she wore white satin embroidered in crystal-the front one glittering mass—train white plush; no sleeves; square neck, back and front, and across the front of the neck rows and rows of diamonds-single stones-pendant. You never saw such stones in your life. A single row close around her throat, and four rows around one arm; an arrow in her hair of gorgeous ones. When she came on the people fairly yelled over her dress before she opened her mouth. This act belongs mostly to tenor and bass. The last act, where she dies, was so real that we were glad when they called her out after the last curtain. She sang the "Adio" like an angel. Her sotto voce is enchanting. The audience was breathless until the tone died, and for a second after held their breath in silence, seeming to follow the flight of that last exquisite dying note. Her death was too real. She fell back in a large arm chair, which sat in the center of the stage, facing the audience. Her jaw fell—her eyes stared, and she looked so dead—it was painful! Fortunately the curtain fell.

Neglect of the Sewer Traps.

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t spring came into the land they

ce covered with strange, beautiful flowers.

Ye velvety petals, forming the group they had

to often seen when passing the open door at

twilight, ast on the green stools in loving companionship in each flower, showing conclusively
that it was meant to serve as a memorial of
those who had lived and loved there. Therefore
they called it "Stiefmuetterchen" (Little
Stepmother) and that name it bears to-day all
over Germany, while we, ignorant of its origin

the continuous and
thorny way, that that which would have been intensely enjoyed has been embittered by the sacrifices required."

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are most anxious to have therive flats reclaimed
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I had dreamed a few years ago of the immense
destined to find it, I should have been ecstatic;
but I have had to find it through such severe exmost anxious to have the rive flats reclaimed
in order to promote the health of the inhabitarea, but here is an intolerable nulsance existing in their midst, endangering their ilves, without their having the slightest knowledge of
it, which could be abated if the regular force
were employed daily for that purpose.

J. C. Carron.

THE BANJO.

TS INCREASED POPULARITY—THE FAVORITE MU-SICAL INSTRUMENT IN PASHIONABLE CIRCLES-THE PLAYERS AND HOW IT IS PLAYED.

There are probably very few persons, besides those of musical tastes, who are aware of the popularity the banjo has achieved as a home musical instrument. Possibly, it would not be going too far to say that the major part of the public only know of the musical qualities of this brilliant instrument from what they have heard from the minstrel organizations which visit this prevailed that he had taught over one hundred lady pupils during the last few years.

given on the subject. "The banjo," remarked the young Professor, giving his instrument a few rapid strokes by way of emphasis, "or, properly speaking, the word banjo, is a corruption of the Latin word bandore, which may be briefly, though not definitely, stated in English as banjo, a stringed musical instrument."

Scientific research has proven the origin of the banjo of a very ancient date. An instrument, bearing a striking similarity to the modern banjo was found in Egypt, and sub-sequently, it is stated, another was discov-ered in the Pyramids. The instrument in use

THE MINSTRELSY that the banjo became a popular musical instrument, and its almost exclusive use from the period of its early advent was confined to this new feature in the way of musical enterlar form by-and-by. The highest honor I could tainments

"How came the banjo to be so closely allied with the colored people?" was pro-

"Regarding that point," replied the Pro-fessor, "it is to be said that the banjo is an instrument of varied prices,—the cheapness of some grades making them attainable by the poor classes, and the wonderful adaptability of its music to the plantation melodies of the southern slaves is a further reason. The banjos used at that time, however, were much inferior to the fine instruments of the pres-

It was not until during the war and later that the banio excited the music-loving world. The crude and inferior instrument soon gave place to a better one, and in the hands of an accomplished player at that time, notably Joseph Sweeney, familiarly known as "Old them. The cotton strings and fringes on them | Joe," the banjo made rapid progression in the

> THE BANJO'S POPULARITY. "To what would you ascribe the banjo's present popularity?"

"Listen to this," and without further replying, stood and well-played it is one of the most the first place the minstrelsy appropriated it in their negro impersonations, and adapted it to all their songs and dances, principally in their clog dancing. From this latter source the fashionable outside world, thoroughly appreciative of its varied musical properties, adopted it as a

"This appears to be a fine instrument." remarked the reporter, holding it with as much scientific knowledge as a raw recruit would a musket at his first drill. "How do they value

THE PRICES AND QUALITIES. "Yes: that is a good instrument, but there are

great many finer ones manufactured. They can be purchased at all prices-from a drumhead at \$1.50 to the extra superior article, \$75 and \$100."

"What are the valuable qualities?" "There are two grades of banjos, valuing rom \$5 to \$50. The banjos that sell under \$5. it may be said, are made for sale only. The grades or qualities have been designated by the manufacturers respectively, 'cloudy' and 'transparent heads.' Professional banjo players generally prefer the 'cloudy' or 'milky' heads, which choice can hardly be accorded as anything significant of superiority over the transparent heads; for, on the other hand, many persons show decided preference for the latter grade of manufacture. There is, however, one slight advantage of the 'cloudy' head over the 'transparent' drum, and that is the former's durability, which fact is sufficient to strongly recommend its use in the minstrel traternity. "Is the valuation of a banjo adjudged by the

quality of its head?" "Oh, no; it is the finish of the instrument and its style of superior workmanship that fixes its value.' EXPENSIVE FASHIONABLE INSTRUMENTS. In the society world one will be astonished to find such beautifully made banjos. Some persons have them executed in a style and finish regardless of cost. The nickel-plated or silver rim that securely holds by the aid of brackets of through his earnest little plea, 'Give the poor either of the same material is artistically replaced by a gold rim, with silver or gold brackets. Again, the highly polished and generally decorated frame, which serves for the drum, is handsomely carved or inlaid with precious stonesdiamonds, pearls, rubies and emeralds-while the neck is also conveniently used for expensive and artistic adornment. These instruments, of course, are made to order, and command high prices, according to amount of labor required in construction and the quantity and quality of the precious stones used. These instruments are mostly, if not entirely, found in the in the first degree, even if it cannot be proved fashionable world, and are used by ladies. So much care is required in their manufacture that | claims that Reardon had threatened to kill him, dealers hold this extra line of goods at not less than \$15, and no instrument is made to order

under that amount. HOW TO PLAY THE BANJO.

Observing the awkward manner in which the reporter held his instrument, the Professor laughingly remarked: "It is plain you know nothing of the banjo. Do not catch hold of it like you were holding a crab by the claws Here, let me show you."

The right foot was thrown over the left and the instrument was scientifically held at almost ness! beautiful! The drapery in the back was arm's length. The musical scale was quickly caught up on the right hip with a group of six | run, and in a few minutes the lively music of into the room, when in an instant the loud died away in the distance and the low numbers 124,) which starts out with the statement that | run in. No pumping, no continual expense such of tinkling music forcibly reminded him of a moon-lit-lake and two in a boat.

"Isn't that varied music?" queried the musi-It appears that the banjo has superseded the guitar to a great extent as an effectual instru-

EFFECTIVE MUSIC is produced several ways. The tremolo effect, which gives such a sweet blended tone, is proheavy playing, or "stroke" is produced by the quick movement of the forefinger, protected by a "thimble," made of silver, which gives the spirit professional players, and the effective march music by the minstrelsy is produced by this means, notably may be mentioned the "German Fitth," "Duquesne Grey." the "Twenty-second Regiment," and many others.

A NUMBER OF WASHINGTON BELLES

play the banjo, and in many cases are excellent performers. Since five years ago the banjo has been a success in fashionable circles. and seems to have entirely superseded the guitar. The banjo for ladies use is made small, and to see how deftly the little instrument is handled by a pair of pretty hands is a rare treat in itself. Why the ladies became admirers of the instrument is not exactly known, but it is possible that the popular mania originated in seeing and hearing it in the hands of such excellent lady performers as Clara Louise Kellogg, Lotta and others. Another advantage has been given the banjo, and that but just lately, by the composition of banjo music from the popular comic operas "Patience," "Pirates of Penzance," "Olivette," Billee Taylor," and others, which will greatly help to increase its popularity as a home musical instrument. One fact is noticeable in banjo playing, that since its fashlonable adoption in all large citles there has been a perceptible diminution in the stage "business," notably in the minstrelsy.

The Washington Players to see how deftly the little instrument is handled

THE WASHINGTON PLAYERS comprise some of our best people. Among the many ladies who are skilled players may be prominently mentioned Miss Kate Bayard. daughter of Senator Bayard, who is quite an adept at the art, and credits her first love for the banjo from seeing and hearing Kellogg play.

Miss Emily Beale, daughter of Gen. Beale, is an excellent performer. Miss Redfern is regarded as one of the most scientific performers in the city. Miss Eustis, granddaughter of W. W. Corcoran, though young, is a very good player.

Mrs. George B. Loring is a most expert player, and has an appreciative ear for a good "reel"

THE SIMPLE METROD is rapidly giving place for scientific playing. Heretofore it has been almost the universal practice to acquire the knowledge of banjo playing without the aid of notes, but during the last year or so the latter system has become more general, and the banjo student has acquired a more thorough knowledge of playing, and made a better performer. The latter system requires more time and labor and necessitates the employment of an educated tutor. One banio eacher states that this idea has so generally

IT IS SAID THAT PRESIDENT ARTHUR is no mean player, and can make the banjo do some lively humming when so disposed. His son, however, is conceded to be an excellent player. Quite a number of prominent society gentlemen spend a few social hours at their homes playing the banjo. A great deal of knowledge, however, may be said to be self-taught or the result of home practice. This never amounts to scientific playing, but pleases the ear to a certain degree.

THE LEADIDG MANUFACTURERS. among whom are Ricketts, Stewart, Dobson Bros. and Fairbanks & Cole, state that the trade is very good, and some of them declare that their business has increased over one hundred per cent during the past year. Only a few years ago the major part of this line of musical goods was confined to the guitar and THE MOST PROMINENT PROFESSIONAL PER-

FORMERS number only a few, the principal players being E. M. Hall, Weston, Huntly, Converse and

Carter. These professionals haved played to Washington audiences, individually, in the several traveling minstrel companies that have visited here, and are well-known as excellent artists in the dramatic profession. "BURLEIGH." "GIVE THE POOR FELLOW CHANCE."

LITTLE BENNY BREWSTER AND THE CONDEMNED SOLDIER KELLY-HISTORY OF THE CASE-TOUCHING LETTER FROM KELLY.

Readers of THE STAR will probably remember he story related last month in its columns about how Attorney General Brewster's little son Benny made a plea-"Give the poor fellow a chance"-in behalf of Edward Kelly, who was condemned to be hung in Santa Fe, N. M., on the 17th of February, and who was first respited until March 17th, and later until April 17th, in order that due consideration might be given by the Attorney General to the applications for commutation of his sentence.

Little Benny had been receiving telegrams from his father during the Attorney General's the Professor dashed off a few rhapsodies of low absence in Philadelphia in February, and when sweet strains, alternated with brilliant staccato one came to Wormley's on the evening of the them in and for repairs in ten years) would not do ice cream. Orange sherbet can be made in effects. "That," remarked the Professor, handing 16th of that month, his own name being the give us an additional drop of water; but, on the same as his father's, he insisted it also was for banjo's success. When it is thoroughly under- him. But for this the telegram might not have been opened until too late, for it was within a completing the works would treble the supply; charming of instruments. As already said, it few hours of the time for the condemned man and who can estimate the value of that in a has been only of late years that it has received to be hung when the child demanded that his sanitary point of view, by washing out our its merited recognition in the musical world. In | mother should open and read the dispatch to him. So it was due to the Attorney General's | the sprinkling of our streets and the preserva- | recipe: Get one cocoanut, one and one-ball great love of his only child which led him to tel- | tion of our parking, trees and shrubbery? Beegraph to him during his absence that this dispatch was promptly opened by his wife, or it would not have been sent him in time to be and will soon reach 1,000 per annum. Even adacted upon and answered before the hour for mitting that the use of meters would so prevent for ten minutes, stirring constantly. Try it on

> Mrs. Brewster quickly comprehended the situation, and that no time was to be lost, so, her future increase to be supplied? husband being still absent, she gave the dispatch to her maid to take at once to the White House. where the President was then entertaining at dinner the ladies and gentlemen of the diplochance" and signed "Ben," should also be taken with the telegram. As his handwriting is in childish character, his mother wrote a translation of his words on the same card, which was shown the Attorney General by Mr. Phillips, the President's secretary, when he took the telegram to him at his office, to which Mr. Brewster went at once on his return that evening from Philadelphia. The "Pardon Clerk"—Judge Grey decided that there were grounds apart from Benny's plea for giving "the poor fellow a chance," and a respite for thirty days was sent February 17th. Other powerful pleas for delay. stating new facts in favor of Edward Kelly, and not to be hung on St. Patrick's day, March 17th. caused the second respite to be granted, and other developments having since been forwarded probable that the sentence may be commuted to mprisonment for life.

A lady in this city wishing him to know how an innocent child had interceded for him, sent Kelly a copy of the published narrative of Benny Brewster's plea in his behalf, and has, although no answer was requested, received a beautiful letter from him, in which he thus refers to the child: "To that manly little man I pray may come a year of happiness and peace for every hour that has been spared to me fellow a chance;' and in his walk through life may he encounter no greater want of joy than I experienced when, in the eleventh hour, those glad tidings came. Can the joy of such a moment be measured? Alas! too few have expe-

The killing occurred in a street fight, when both Jack Reardon, who was slain, and Kelly were intoxicated, and the evidence now before the Attorney General gives ground for belief that the killing was done in the heat of passion and was not premeditated, so was not murder to have been done in self-defense, as Kelly and had a revolver in his hand at the time he was killed. Wherefore the respites have not been granted purely for sentimental considerations, though little Benny has declared that "his

man should not be hung." MISS GRUNDY. THE WATER SUPPLY. Another Meter Job.

To the Editor of THE EVENING STAR.

It is evident that there is another meter joi on the carpet, and it becomes our citizens to be on the lookout, or they will find this scheme fastened on them before they know it.

uced in the House a joint resolution, (H. Res. the constant complaint for want of water is due to the enormous waste, and that if such waste were checked every consumer on Capitol Hill and other high points of the city could get ample supply, and there would be no necessity to increase the supply, &c., and then goes on to provide that the proper committee "examine quantity of water consumed in each building. duced by the forefinger of the right hand. The and that said committee shall have power to recommend such meter for adoption in the District of Columbia, to be placed in each house to a "thimble," made of silver, which gives the spirit and musical finish to marches. This method of "stroke" playing is confined principally to the exceed—dollars; and that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and are hereby, instructed to contract with the owner of such meter for so many as may be needed."

A smilar resolution or bill was recently introduced into the Senate by Senator Pendleton, (by request of the parties interested, of course. At the same time a certain afternoon paper has published several articles setting forth the advantages of a certain meter, and notifying our citizens that a certain Mr. Leeds has opened an office here, and is prepared to show the public what a beautiful meter he has, all pro bono publico, of course.

everal hundred thousand dollars on the conseveral hundred thousand dollars on the contract, and the meters proving to be of little or no account, the work was stopped; whereupon the contractors sued the city, and after carrying the case to the court of appeals, in July last, as announced in the New York Tribune, a judgment was rendered with costs against the city for over \$600,000! That job cost the citizens of New York nearly or quite one million dollars, the meters proved a humbug, and few, if any of them, are in use to-day.

There, as bare, the use of meters was to do away with the next to do away with

supply; but to-day New York is not only suffer bly for want of water, but is casting about in all directions to see how she can increase her supply. We all remember how, during the dry season last year, her water supply was so reduced that there was almost a panic on the subject; and had a large fire broken out at that time the city would have been at the mercy of the flames. It is well known that for years the increasing foulness of her sewers, owing to a want of sufficient water, has caused a rapid increase of diphtheria and similar diseases; and many portions of the city where such diseases were formerly unknown, have become almost for New York, and that is what it will do for us

if allowed to succeed THE "WHEREAS" OF MR. LORD'S RESOLUTION assumes what is not true, viz: that the scarcity of the water here is due to the waste of it by the citizens. It says the scarcity is due to the waste; that to prevent such waste meters are to be put into the houses of consumers-that is, of citizens-not in the departments or public build-

Fortunately we have the official record—the rice the same as you do coffee; then pour bolling government's own record-to disprove this assumption—an assumption that has been so often it boil until it is tender; then add sugaror cream repeated in Congress that people have almost to it. It may be strained or not, according to

On the 28th of June, 1880, Col. Casey measured the water that ran out of the reservoir: it was 25,740,138 golions in the 24 hours. His record shows that from midnight to 6 a. m., it

ran out at the rate of 970,909 gallons per hour. Now it evident that the citizens were not using the water to any considerable extent then. because they were in bed and asleep during a little sugar. those hours. They were not letting it run then to keep their spigots from freezing, as is so often alleged, because that was in midsummer. of course it does so during ail other hours. In 24 hours that would amount to 22,301,816 gal- the spot which needs mending. It will show lons that is not used or wasted by the citizens. very little, if at all, and the starch will keep it That would leave of the total amount in place. delivered but 3.438,322 gallons for the citizens during the 24 hours, for use and waste combined. That would give, instead of the 1551/4 gallons per capita that we have been charged with using, but 13% gallons per capita and it is self-evident that with such a supply there could not be much waste, or we would

not have any for use. From these figures, which are official, any one can see that the assumption in Mr. Lord's resolution is false, andthat being so, the rest falls,

But suppose, for the sake of the argument that it was true, and supposing further, that a meter has been produced that will measure the water accurately, and remain perfect, which is not true, then see how the matter would stand. THE MONEY WASTED IN METERS WOULD INCREASE THE SUPPLY.

We have to-day 20,000 water consumers. Forty dollars each for 20,000 meters would be \$800,000. enough to complete the dam and extend the Aqueduct. The \$800,000 expended for meters (and you may add half as much more for putting contrary, would materially reduce the pressure and head; while the same amount expended for sewers, to say nothing of the luxury of baths, sides, with the rapid growth of the city, the water-takers are increasing at the rate of 800, waste as to supply the present number, which a cold plate; if it forms a firm paste when cold is not true, what of the future? How is the

IT IS IDLE TO TALK about meters remedying the difficulty. Meters mean a job, and nothing else. If Members and matic corps. Benny insisted that a card on | Senators know the facts as they exist, it is which he had written "give the poor fellow a astonishing that they will lend themselves to such jobs by introducing such bills even by request. If they don't know the facts they ought

to, and can easily learn them. While on this subject, I desire to correct another error which seems to prevail in Congress, and that is, that citizens receive the water as a gratuity at the hands of the government. As shown by water registrar's report, the citizens was summoned and a conference held, and it was | have paid for laying mains, &c., \$1,353,351.17. They paid last year \$140,248.33, and in 1879-'80 they paid \$196,409.57, an average of \$168,328.96 per annum as water tax, &c. They pay the nim just in time to prevent his execution on water tax annually in advance, and then don't get the water! There are thousands of dwellings to-day in which the water will not rise to the pardon clerk urging that an Irishman ought | the second story, in which it will not run in the water-closets or baths, and many in which it will not run into the boilers on the first floor! In June last there were seven hundred children Just think of it! It is perfectly appalling.

To-day there is not a public building, Capitol or department, in which the water will rise to the upper stories without pumping. With such a condition of affairs the citizens would almost be justified in lynching any man who should seek to make gain out of their distress by attempting to force meters upon them, and prevent the increase of the water supply. This matter has been fully investigated by the special committee of the Senate two years ago, and again by the District committee of the Senate now, and the unanimous conclusion both then and now is that the only remedy is to complete the dam and extend the Aqueduct.

SOME FACTS IN POINT. In Chicago and in Cincinnati, in both of which cities every drop of the water is pumped, they find it profitable to run light machinery, from a sewing machine to a printing press, by the city water. How much more should that be the case here, where all that is need is a conduit for it to

In the hot weather of last August, while our

parks were burned up and the grass dead for the

want of water, the writer visited New Haven, and there, during all hours of the day, from one end of the city to the other, people had their hose propped up, and with full head, were sprinkling their grass plats, which were as green as with us in early spring. And I found the same state of affairs at Mount Auburn, on the heights at Cincinnati, when I visited that city; and on speaking to the citizens about it at each city, they told me they used the water without stint at any and all hours of the day. Here, if a citizen uses his hose over thirty minutes dur- noon lunch.—American Agriculturist. ing the 24 hours, or at any other than a certain half hour, he is hauled up before the Police Court and fined! And yet, while these others On February 6th Mr. Lord, of Michigan, intro- have to pump their water, we have a whole by physicians we believe, are a very painful and river at our doors, needing only a ditch for it to as they have, and yet we cannot get enough water for the ordinary wants and decencies of to bruises, felons are quite common am life! It is an outrage upon a long suffering and much abused people, such as no other commu-nity would quietly submit to. I venture to say (pus) forms, and the periosteum or bone sheaththat neither Mr. Lord, in Detroit, nor Mr. Pen- ing is affected, lancing is necessary; but if taken dieton, in Cincinnati, would dare attempt any such thing in their respective cities. Why, then, do it here? Is it because we are helpless, tied hand and foot, to be kicked, like a foot-ball, into a meter which will accurately measure the hand and foot, to be kicked, like a foot-ball, hither and thither, at the caprice or whim of members, and as may best advance the speculations of the foreigen cormorants who come here to prev upon us? It certainly looks so. bing into it a little lard and washing with soap and water. Dr. A. B. Isham details, in Medical to prey upon us? It certainly looks so. But thank God the great majority of both houses know, or will know the facts, and will, uniform success. where formation of pus had not

when they fully know them, give us the increase of water. Rome had a water supply of 390 gal-lons per capita from her twenty-iour aqueducts, which to this day are the wonder of mankind. Strabo says that whole rivers flowed throug her streets. One of her thermea or public baths accommodated 2,300 bathers at a time; that of mation of external parts. Diocletian 3,000, besides which there were many smaller ones, and a great number of commo baths. And yet, here in the capital of one of the most powerful and wealthy nations of the nels, but it is seldom safe in April to remove the earth, with a surplus revenue so great that members are constantly devising ways to reduce it, we have not a single public bath, and cannot get sufficient water for the ordinary decencies and necessities of life! Under such circumstances, and in view of the indisputable facts, to hear men talking about applying hear men talking about applying A "REPRESSIVE POLICY,"

and measuring out water, which should be as free as air, as though it were precious as drops of blood, is enough to make one ashamed of his country. At such a time the talk about meters sounds to us like the cry of "beef! beef!" in the American camp. Our cry is, give us water or we perish, and the allower is, give them meters. As Senator Rollins said, when the meter job was up before: "It is proposed to apply meters to up before: "It is proposed to apply meters to measure the water we pay for, but don't get. Give us the water first, and then it is time unheated rooms in cool weather. If the enough to talk about measuring CAPITOL HILL.

Bosron Nominations.—The temperance men of soston have nominated Mr. Shreve Hartshorm and the republicans Mr. Israel Lacy for mayor and the republicans Mr. Israel Mr. Israel Mr. Israel Mr. Israel Mr. Israel but the latter has dec ned the n rate have not as yet made their no

HOME MATTERS.

TREACHEROUS SPRING WEATHER - SEAFONABLE HINTS AND SUGGESTIONS-A BUDGET OF GOOD RECIPES.

LIGHT BROWN BISCUIT for tea are made of one pint of Graham flour, one pint of sour cream, one teaspoonful of bicarbonate of sode; roll them out as for any biscuit, and bake in a moderate oven.

To FRY SMELTS: Wash and scrape them. cot uninhabitable. That is what the meter job did off the fins, dip them in beaten egg and cracker crumbs, or simply roll them in flour, fry in boiling fat; garnish with fried parsley or with fresh WHEN making molasses candy or when boll-

> ing maple molasses there is always more or less danger of its running over on the stove. A small lump of butter dropped in when its bubbles begin to rise will prevent this. A NOURISHING AND PLEASANT DRINK for & sick person is made of parched rice. Brown the

> water with a little salt in it over the rice. Let A GOOD WAY TO PREPARE APPLES at this season of the year, when they are almost tasteless, is to pare them, cut them in quarters, and steam until they are tender; then put them in an

earthen dish and pour over the sauce a little weak vinegar, just enough to flavor them . trifle. In this put some unground alispice and OLD LACE CURTAINS that have little holes in the netting can be made to appear whole when If now, it ran out at that rate over and above they are laundried. Take a piece of lace, or what the citizens used during those six hours, very thin muslin, and when the curtain is starched starch this piece also and put it over

> BOILED TURKEY .- If a boiled turkey is not well managed it will be quite tasteless. Choose a hen turkey. It must be well trussed and tied. Cut the legs at the first joint and draw them into the body. Fasten the small ends of the wings under the back, and tie them securely with strong twine. Sprinkle over plenty of salt and pepper and lemon juice, and put it into boiling water. Boil it slowly two hours or until quite tender. It is often served in a bed of rice with oysters; sometimes with caper sauce. celery sauce and Hollandain sauce. Pour par of the sauce over the turkey. Reserve the gib-

> lets for giblet soup. It can be stuffed or not, the same as for roasting. LEMON SHERBET, which is so refreshing to the fever patient, and which is not despised by the well man, is made in the proportion of two pounds of white sugar and six lemons, to two quarts of water. Cut the lemons in two parts: squeeze every drop of the juice out; stir the sugar, water and lemon juice together, and strain through a wire sieve. Freeze just as you the same way by substituting oranges for lem ons, and some people think it very agreeable if half lemons and half oranges are used. This is a pleasant ice to serve at the close of a weighty dinner.—N. Y. Post.

> DELICIOUS FRUIT CANDY is made from this pounds of granulated sugar, wet the sugar with the milk of the cocoanut, put it in a saucepa let it heat slowly, then boil rapidly for five minutes, add the cocoanut grated very fine, boll take it from the fire. Pour part of it out on large tin, lined with buttered paper. To the remaining cream add one-quarter of a pound of raisins, stoned and chopped, half a pound blanched almonds, one pint of peacans, half cup of chopped walnuts. Beat all well together, then pour it over the other in the tin, and wher cold cut it in bars or squares.

> Never let an unexpected dinner make you uncomfortable. I always hold the theory that what is good enough for my family is good enough for my guest, and one of the pleasantest homes in which I visit is that of a young couple who live on less than \$2000 a year. Their house is so well managed that they can always afford to give a hearty welcome to any friend who comes, and, although going in unexpectedly, I have sat down to corn beef, cabbage and potatoes with fruit for desert. (I hope they'll forgive me for telling it) I can assure you nothing could have been more acceptable. The plainest dinner, well prepared, and served on pretty china and seasoned with every-day talk, is often enjoyed and remembered.—"Home Talk" in Philadelphia Press.

OYSTER BLANKET .- This is sometimes called to the Attorney General, it is now thought in the Wallach school, and not a drop of water in the country "pig in a blanket." In England would flow in the water-closets, on the ground floor! it is considered so good and "earty" a dish, that it is designated "angels on horseback." It is a new and delicious entree, especially for shy dinner guests who are thankful for something to talk about in the first half-hour of a dinner party. Take twelve or more large-sized oysters from their shells, removing their beards; cover each with a very thin slice of fat of bacon, dipping each slice into hot water, and well drying it with a cloth before rolling it round the oyster; then place them on a fine skewer and suspend them before the fire until the bacon is nicely cooked. A slice of soft buttered tozst should be under them while cooking, and on it they should be sent up very hot to the table. If not convenient to cook them before the fire, they may be broiled on the gridiron.—N. Y. Tribune

> CREAM OF CELERY .- Celery is unusually scarce new, and little of it is well blanched and crisp. But even the somewhat inferior quality may be made quite palatable. Cut it into very small pieces, rejecting the toughest green portions. Add only water enough to keep it from burning. and boil it in a closely covered vessel for an hour, or until perfectly tender. Then add a sufficient quantity of milk, first thickened with a tablespoonful of flour to each pint, previously rubbed smooth with two tablespoonfuls of butter, and salt and pepper to the taste, very little of the pepper. Boil and serve as soon as the flour is thoroughly cooked. If made moderately thin with the milk, flour and butter it can be rubbed through a colander, when it gives a delicious cream-like soup. Smooth squares of bread well browned are frequently put into the soup when finished. A bowl of this, eaten with bread, the same as bread and milk, makes an excellent

> SIMPLE REMEDY FOR FELONS AND BOILS .-"Felons," which are usually termed "Whitlow" often a very serious affection of the fit erally of the last joints, and often near or involv ing the nails. As the fingers are much exposed those who constantly use their hands at hard work. If allowed to continue, until matter applied from time to time. When a cure is effected, the varnish is easily removed by rub-News, a number of cases of its application with previously occurred. In two cases there was apparently a combination of the "run-around" with the felon, and in all of them there was swelling, redness, heat and great pain. He suggests the use of Copal varnish for felons, "run-arounds," boils and any local acute inflam-

> NOT SUMMER YET .- Some warm April days tempt the inexperienced to take off under-flanflannels worn during the day are always taken off at bed-time for an all-night airing, and the winter under-flannels (home made garments of wool), preceded in fall and followed in spring by long-sleeved high-necked garments, of un-bleached cotton, with thinner ones for summer. ashine and warm air make a fire at midday, the mornings and evenings are officially. We think it will soon be bed-time, as it is hardly worth while to build a fire. So we go to bed with cold feet and in a chilled condition, and are all "out of sorts" next day.—Amer

The Mobile (Ala.) Register takes occasion to hat its design was to assert that it costs the rament \$3,000 to oury a Congressman, when